

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FSI-01 /027 R

DRAFTED BY M:FNSPOTTS:JS

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NEA/AFN:WSWEISLOGEL

S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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P 102140Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198412

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSI TS

SUBJECT: ENROLLMENT AT FSI ARABIC SCHOOL

REFERENCE: TUNIS 5285

1. IF THE AUSTRALIAN FSO WERE ENROLLED IN FSI/TUNIS, HE WOULD HAVE NO US STATUS OR PRIVILEGES AND NO CONNECTION WITH OUR EMBASSY. SUCH IS NOW THE CASE WITH AUSTRALIAN, NEW ZEALAND, AND CANADIAN STUDENTS AT FSI YOKOHAMA AND THAT ARRANGEMENT HAS WORKED WELL.

2. AT OUR REQUEST THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HAS CHECKED WITH CANBERRA ABOUT THE STUDENT'S FORMAL STATUS IN TUNISIA. THE AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN OFFICE HAS REPLIED AS FOLLOWS: PROPOSED STUDENT AT FSI TUNIS (MICHAEL P. F. SMITH, FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICER GRADE 1) WOULD CARRY DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT WITH INSCRIPTION, "BEARER IS A MEMBER OF HER MAJESTY'S AUSTRALIAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE." WOULD EXPECT THAT HE WOULD OBTAIN TUNISIAN VISA IN CAIRO PRIOR TO ARRIVAL TUNIS. IN DUE COURSE WOULD EXPECT HIM TO BE
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ACCREDITED AS THIRD SECRETARY AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PARIS

WHERE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR ALSO ACCREDITED TO TUNISIA.

3. LIKE YOU, WE PRESUME THE STUDENT WILL TURN TO THE
BRITISH EMBASSY IN CASE OF ANY EMERGENCY.

4. WERE THE BRITISH TO RAISE THE QUESTION WITH YOU ABOUT
THE POSSIBILITY OF THEIR FSOS ATTENDING FSI TUNIS, YOU
COULD POINT OUT THAT ATTENDANCE THERE IS DECIDED SOLELY
BY THE DEPARTMENT AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT CANNOT CONSIDER
ANY FURTHER REQUESTS FOR A NON-U.S. STUDENT UNTIL THE
FUTURE OF FSI TUNIS IS DECIDED IN ABOUT 6 MONTHS FROM NOW.
WE WOULD IN ANY CASE BE UNCOMFORTABLE ABOUT ACCEPTING
STUDENTS WHO WERE WITHDRAWN FROM A TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT
SPONSORED SCHOOL.

5. WE ARE ANXIOUS TO REPLY TO THE AUSTRALIANS AND WOULD
APPRECIATE YOUR REACHING A DECISION ON THIS MATTER AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE.

6. FOR INFO MARGARET OMAR, FSI DIRECTOR: SMITH BEGAN
STUDIES AT MECAS OCTOBER 1975; CONTINUED STUDY OF THE
"MODERN STANDARD ARABIC" AT POLYGLOT SCHOOL IN CAIRO
THROUGH END OF JULY 1976. HE IS DESCRIBED AS DILIGENT
STUDENT WITH HIGH RETENTIVE ABILITY; EXPECTED BY END
OF COURSE TO BE AT EQUIVALENT OF MECAS LONG (TEN-MONTH)
COURSE. DR. SNOW OF FSI ESTIMATES ON THIS BASIS THAT HE
WOULD BE AT S-2, R-2 OR BETTER. MLAT 65. AUSTRALIAN
EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD THAT IF ACCEPTED, HE COULD BEGIN
STUDY AFTER SUMMER BREAK, I.E. AUGUST 27. SMITH IS
SINGLE WITH NO DEPENDENTS. ROBINSON

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